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Agricultural Marketing Service  
Fruit & Vegetable Division  
Market News Branch

ARIZONA  
FRUIT & VEGETABLE  
STANDARDIZATION SERVICE

FEDERAL-STATE MARKET NEWS SERVICE

MARKETING YUMA DISTRICT CANTALoupES

1972 SEASON

First Federal Bldg. - Suite 228, Yuma, Arizona 85364

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FOREWORD

The Federal-State Market News Service opened a field office in Yuma, Arizona on May 30, 1972. This service was made possible by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit & Vegetable Division and the Arizona Fruit and Vegetable Standardization Service.

The information in this summary was obtained chiefly from the daily reports issued at Yuma. Other sources of information include: The Arizona Fruit and Vegetable Standardization Service under the supervision of Mr. Loren Pike with assistance from Mr. Lloyd Burr, Inspector in Charge of the Yuma district; The Crop Reporting Board, Washington, D. C.; The Southern Pacific Railroad Co.; Pacific Fruit Express Co.; and the U. S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Weather Service under the local direction of Mr. Victor B. Cotten, Meteorologist.

Since this summary is being prepared prior to the completion of the shipping season it should be understood that some of the figures contained herein are not complete and are subject to slight revision.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all segments of the industry for their time and cooperation. Requests for additional copies of this summary should be sent to this office or the U. S. Department of Agriculture, AMS, Fruit & Vegetable Division, Market News Branch, 2503 South Bldg., Washington D.C. 20250

Robert F. Sweitzer  
Local Representative

NARRATIVE REVIEW

This was one of the earliest seasons on record for Yuma cantaloupes. Warm weather beginning in mid-February hastened growth and maturity of early plantings. First harvesting was reported on May 15, with 181 crates packed and the first truck shipments were recorded May 18 with two carlot equivalents. Initial rail movement came on May 23 with 3 cars shipped. The bulk of the crop was harvested by mid-June, about the time the season was beginning in 1971. Harvesting advanced rapidly and peak movement occurred the week of May 28-June 3 with 688 carlot equivalents. The peak day was May 29 with 118 carlot equivalents. Good volume occurred the following week with 570 carlot equivalents shipped. Shipments dropped sharply the next week and declined steadily the remainder of the season. The season in Parker began on June 1 and ended June 24. Peak movement was recorded June 4-10 with 190 carlot equivalents and the following week with 156.

Market News issued the first FOB for Yuma cantaloupes on May 30, with Jumbo crates 36s \$7.00, and 45s \$5.00-6.00 mostly \$6.00. As national supplies increased the market declined on June 8 to mostly \$6.50 on 36s and mostly \$5.50 on 45s and 27s. Yuma received .23" of rain on June 5 and .04" on June 6 & 7 which ended a period of 168 consecutive days without rain. Most competing areas received some rain about the same time. Supplies at shipping point became lighter and the market strengthened on June 12 to \$7.50-8.00 on 36s and \$6.50-7.00 on 27s & 45s. 36s were mostly \$8.00 on June 19-21 but the market began a weakening trend and the final report showed 36s at mostly \$7.50 on June 23. During most of the season packout was heavy to 36 size melons. Second labels or "Western Choice" were generally \$.50-1.00 lower than first label melons.

Rail shipments totaled 1,072 through June 28, well below last season when 1,757 rail cars were shipped. Movement by rail included 89% mechanical cars, 10% rail-truck (piggy-back) and only about 1% ice cars. Rail shipments are actual number of cars billed regardless of lading. Average lading per rail car was 660 and per rail-truck 442 for an average of 638 for all rail shipments. Last year's average lading was 651 per rail car and 440 per rail-truck.

Truck shipments totaled 709 carlot equivalents through June 28. Truck figures are tabulated from actual crate count. The conversion factor of 600 crates per car has been used for two years. The factor for the previous five years was 500 crates per carlot equivalent.

8,016 acres of cantaloupes were planted in the Yuma District in 1972, compared to 7,202 acres last season. Acreage in the Parker-Poston area was 1,763 compared to 1,655 last season. Yields in Yuma averaged 138 crates per acre through June 28. The ultimate yield will be slightly higher after late acreage is harvested and included in the total. Average yield per acre for the past 15 years was 138 crates. Total packout through June 28 was 1,107,228 crates.

Some of the information in this summary is of a general nature. Anyone needing more detail should refer to the daily reports issued from this office.

ACREAGE AND ESTIMATED PRODUCTION REPORTED TO JUNE 1, 1972 WITH COMPARISONS

CANTALOUPE	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested		For Harvest 1972	1970	1971	Ind. 1972	1970	1971	Ind. 1972
	1970	1971							
STATE	- Acres -			- Cwt -			- 1,000 Cwt. -		
Spring:									
Florida . . . . .	1,200	1,300	1,000	70	65	70	84	85	70
Texas . . . . .	17,800	12,900	12,000	70	90	100	1,246	1,161	1,200
Arizona . . . . .	8,800	8,900	9,800	145	175	150	1,276	1,558	1,470
California . . . . .	8,000	8,500	11,300	140	135	130	1,120	1,148	1,469
Group Total . . . . .	35,800	31,600	34,100	104	125	123	3,726	3,952	4,209
Early Summer:									
South Carolina . . . . .	3,500	3,600	3,600	50	57	55	175	205	198
Georgia . . . . .	5,200	4,900	4,700	60	64	61	312	314	287
Arizona . . . . .	700	1,600	800	115	110	110	81	176	88
Group Total . . . . .	9,400	10,100	9,100	60	69	62	568	695	573

COMMENT

Spring cantaloupe crop is estimated at 4,209,000 cwt., up 7 percent from 1971. Florida's harvest is increasing with a steady supply expected throughout June. In the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas harvest was active by mid-May and past the peak by June 1st. Heavy rains received in late April and early May damaged the crop in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Laredo area. First supplies from the Winter Garden area moved in late May with volume expected by mid-June. The Presidio area should be harvested by mid-June. Harvest got underway about mid-May in the Yuma, Arizona area, one to two weeks ahead of last year. Harvest has been underway since mid-May in the Imperial Valley of California. Picking is beginning in the Palo Verde Valley. Harvest should be completed in both areas by July 10th.

Early Summer cantaloupe output is forecast at 573,000 cwt., down 18 percent from 1971. In South Carolina, excessive moisture and cool temperatures have slowed development, causing the crop to be later than normal. Georgia's prospects are fair to good. Cool temperatures and dry soil in some areas have slowed plant development and caused some replanting. Arizona's crop development is ahead of previous years and harvest is getting underway the first week of June.

Source: Statistical Reporting Service - Crop Reporting Board - U. S. Department of Agriculture Washington, D. C.

Date	January			February			March			April			May			June		
	Max	Min	Pr	Max	Min	Pr	Max	Min	Pr	Max	Min	Pr	Max	Min	Pr	Max	Min	Pr.
1	64	48	-	63	36	-	79	55	-	89	51	-	98	60	-	100	76	-
2	68	37	-	58	47	-	84	50	-	90	58	-	99	62	-	100	75	-
3	60	34	-	63	37	-	86	53	-	90	58	-	98	63	-	101	72	-
4	51	35	-	66	42	-	92	55	-	92	62	-	94	68	-	103	76	-
5	54	34	-	70	42	-	93	58	-	97	64	-	90	60	-	99	78	.23
6	64	32	-	71	43	-	94	57	-	87	67	-	87	57	-	98	74	.03
7	60	38	-	75	43	-	91	63	-	89	57	-	86	58	-	93	72	.01
8	65	33	-	73	45	-	89	57	-	92	57	-	90	58	-	97	69	-
9	66	37	-	72	54	-	94	56	-	92	55	-	91	62	-	93	71	-
10	68	36	-	73	45	-	95	55	-	90	62	-	94	59	-	96	70	-
11	72	37	-	73	44	-	90	55	-	88	68	T	97	60	-	101	68	-
12	71	37	-	74	44	-	91	55	-	83	60	-	101	62	-	104	75	-
13	71	40	-	76	37	-	90	55	-	77	56	-	102	62	-	103	80	-
14	72	43	-	75	37	-	88	63	-	74	52	-	101	67	-	100	76	-
15	72	53	-	77	42	-	90	56	-	82	49	-	102	64	-	102	76	-
16	73	46	-	80	44	-	92	55	-	88	52	-	100	67	-	104	77	-
17	73	39	-	84	44	-	95	56	-	87	58	-	95	67	-	104	71	-
18	73	37	-	80	50	-	92	55	-	77	55	-	89	61	-	104	72	-
19	70	38	-	83	52	-	89	55	-	71	49	T	79	58	-	108	73	-
20	70	39	-	84	48	-	89	57	-	81	45	-	77	58	-	107	80	-
21	70	38	-	81	50	-	90	55	-	87	49	-	81	57	-	107	81	T
22	71	43	-	80	52	-	88	60	-	92	51	-	89	58	-	98	73	-
23	74	37	-	81	48	-	84	52	-	95	56	-	93	61	-	94	67	-
24	69	43	-	81	46	-	85	53	-	93	56	-	93	67	-	100	70	-
25	71	37	-	84	46	-	90	54	-	89	61	-	91	67	-	99	68	-
26	59	42	-	83	48	-	82	57	-	88	56	-	95	61	-	101	68	-
27	62	34	-	88	50	-	74	56	-	90	60	-	99	73	T	104	69	-
28	66	36	-	89	51	-	73	42	-	94	56	-	100	72	-	109	69	-
29	67	39	-	86	54	-	76	45	-	94	60	-	96	75	T	111	74	-
30	61	45	-				77	52	-				96	75	-			
31	63	39	-				86	46	-				97	75	-			
Ave	66.8	38.9	-	75.7	45.6	-	87.5	54.6	-	87.8	56.6	-	93.5	63.7	-			
Ttl Pr			-			-			-			-			-			
T - means trace of rain Pr - means precipitation																		

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF YUMA DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER CONDITIONS

**JANUARY** - This was the sixth consecutive month with average monthly temperatures below normal. The coldest weather of the season occurred early in the month and caused some fruit damage to citrus but only slight wood damage. There were 30 cold nights which was the greatest for any month since the district was organized in the fall of 1964. The lowest temperature at survey stations was 17 degrees Parker.

**FEBRUARY** - Warming occurred at midmonth and then temperatures remained above normal for 41 consecutive days. These high temperatures brought rapid growth and some damage to lettuce. There were 15 cold nights. The lowest temperature was 20 degrees at Parker & Poston. There was no rain during the month. The last January-February with no measurable precipitation was in 1924.

**MARCH** - Temperatures continued much above normal until the 27th when cold weather moved into the District and caused some crop damage. There were 2 cold nights during the period. Lowest temperature was 31 degrees at Roll and on the Yuma Mesa. There was no rain for the third consecutive month. This was the first January-March period ever recorded without at least a trace of rain.

**APRIL** - The month averaged above normal in temperature and below normal in precipitation. It was the third consecutive month of above normal temperature and the fourth month of below normal rainfall. On a trace of rain has fallen so far this year. The minimum temperature of 45 degrees on the 20th equaled the record for that day. The minimum of 67 degrees on the 6th was the highest minimum ever recorded on that date.

**MAY** - The month was warm and dry. Temperatures averaged above normal for four consecutive months, and rainfall was below normal eight consecutive months. The maximum of 77 degrees on the 20th equaled the lowest maximum for that date. No measurable rain had fallen for 154 consecutive days.

**JUNE** - Rainfall of .23 inches on June 5 ended 168 consecutive days without any rainfall in Yuma. Also on June 6 .03 inches fell and another .01 inches was recorded on June 7. A trace was reported on June 8. These rains made this June one of the wettest on record for Yuma. The 80 degree minimum on June 13 was a record high minimum for the date.

**COLD NIGHT** - is one in which the minimum temperature of 32 degrees or lower is reported at one or more of the stations in the district.

DATE	YUMA		CENT ARIZ		PARKER		IMP VLY		BLYTHE		FLORIDA		CENTRAL CALIF		TEXAS		MEXICO		TOT RI
	Rl	Tr	Rl	Tr	Rl	Tr	Rl	Tr	Rl	Tr	Rl	Tr	Rl	Tr	Rl	Tr	Rl	Tr	
(Prior to May 15th)								3				14			183	632	512	1829	695
15								1							6	47	7	30	13
16								1							5	55	10	40	15
17								2							1	38	11	40	12
18								2							3	55	7	32	10
19								5							4	48	4	43	8
20								8							6	42	7	32	14
21								1							8	40	7	37	15
22								7				1			7	34	3	29	17
23								14							9	44	5	28	31
24								19							8	47	5	25	39
25								30				2			2	43	2	21	39
26								38							5	32	4	13	62
27								64			2				2	29	3	15	103
28								73			1				1	19	1	9	127
29								98			3				1	19	3	6	202
30								68			4					16	2	5	155
31								72			6					5	3	3	154
June																			
1								71			4				1			1	151
2								84										3	157
3								80			1								161
4								65			1							2	141
5								33			2								147
6								44			2							1	188
7								46			2								147
8								44			3								180
9								34			2								105
10								37			2								76
11								28											48
12								10			1								54
13								27			2								44
14								6			3								53
15								19			3								51
16								25			3								41
17								13			2								43
18								23			1								45
19								17											77
20								8											57
21								18											92
22								3			1								80
23								2											85
24								5											98
25								3											66
26								5			1								107
GRAND TOTAL	1068	699	78	43	296	109	1146	1229	203	188	62	556	463	262	1245	596	2245	4205	6

TABLE NO. 4 - 15 YEAR PLANTED ACREAGE, TOTAL CRATES SHIPPED, YIELD, FIRST SHIPMENTS, PEAK SHIPMENTS

DATE	PLANTED ACREAGE	TOTAL CRATES SHIPPED	YIELD PER ACRE	FIRST SHIPMENTS	PEAK DAY	PEAK VOLUME C/L EQUIVALENT
1958	10,471	1,525,545	146	May 24	June 16	260
1959	12,735	2,013,638	158	" 22	" 8	352
1960	12,454	2,099,970	169	" 26	" 6	337
1961	13,145	1,680,831	128	" 20	" 7	188
1962	14,641	2,136,108	146	" 29	" 23	327
1963	15,913	2,372,523	149	" 20	" 11	238
1964	18,013	2,128,589	118	June 1	" 26	268
1965	14,909	1,806,071	121	" 1	" 15	229
1966	13,346	1,894,683	142	May 27	" 8	250
1967	9,049	1,229,717	136	" 27	July 4&5	87
1968	9,711	1,304,869	134	" 15	June 15	101
1969	10,154	1,511,863	149	" 27	" 21	163
1970	6,755	1,154,590	170	" 29	" 27	98
1971	7,202	1,476,471	205	June 1	June 21&28	147
1972	8,016	1,107,228*	138	May 18	May 29	118

Truck carlot equivalent for the years 1958-1960 basis 310 crates, 1961-65 basis 400, 1966-70 500, 1971-72 600. Source: Acreage, crates shipped & yield furnished by the Arizona Fruit & Vegetable Standardization Service - Yuma office. (\*) through June 28th

TABLE NO. 5 - 15 YEAR RAIL AND TRUCK SHIPMENTS

DATE	SHIPMENTS			SEASONS TOTAL	DATE	SHIPMENTS			SEASON'S TOTAL
	RAIL	TRUCK	TOTAL			RAIL	TRUCK	TOTAL	
1958	3,335	1,554	4,889	1966	2,809	1,104	3,913		
1959	4,391	1,340	5,731	1967	1,534	812	2,346		
1960	4,099	1,451	5,550	1968	1,757	731	2,488		
1961	2,874	1,279	4,153	1969	2,085	713	2,798		
1962	3,819	1,469	5,288	1970	1,337	713	2,050		
1963	3,742	1,874	5,616	1971	1,757	710	2,467		
1964	3,273	1,742	5,015	1972	1,072*	709*	1,081*		
1965	2,662	1,379	4,041						

Truck carlot equivalent for the years 1958-60 basis 310 crates, 1961-65 basis 400, 1966-70 basis 500 1971-72 basis 600. (\*) through June 28th

TABLE NO. 6 16 CITIES - RAIL ARRIVALS-UNLOADS-TRACK & TRUCK ARRIVALS

	JUNE											
	MAY 25	26	30	31	1	2	5	6	7	8	9	
Arrivals	16	7	53	39	52	46	175	120	91	94	89	
Unloads/Div.	unav	12	24	31	32	48	101	105	110	84	103	
ON TRACK	16	11	40	48	68	66	140	155	136	146	132	
Truck	27	41	79	50	44	33	47	23	34	26	30	
JUNE	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Arrivals	250	129	117	82	84	122	61	45	24	46	54	
Unloads/Div.	155	121	67	85	90	158	76	66	67	59	84	
ON TRACK	227	235	285	282	276	240	225	204	161	148	118	
Truck	34	24	22	31	16	41	20	30	20	24	43	



TABLE NO. 7 DAILY F.O.B. SHIPPING POINT PRICES OF CANTALOUPE BY DISTRICTS

Date	<u>YUMA</u>			<u>IMPERIAL VALLEY</u>		
	36s	45s	27s	36s	45s	27s
May						
30	7.00	6.00	----	7.00	6.00	----
31	7.00	5.00-5.50	6.00	7.00	5.50	----
June						
1	7.00	5.00-5.50	6.00	7.00	5.00-5.50	6.00
2	7.00	5.50	6.00	7.00	5.50	6.00
5	7.00	5.50-6.00	5.50-6.00	7.00	5.50	6.00
6	7.00	5.50-6.00	5.50-6.00	7.00	5.50-6.00	6.00
7	7.00	5.50-6.00	5.50-6.00	7.00	5.50-6.00	5.50-6.00
8	6.50	5.50-6.00	5.50	6.50	5.50	5.50
9	6.50	5.50	5.50	6.50	5.50	5.50
12	7.50-8.00	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00	7.50	6.50	6.50
13	7.50-8.00	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00	7.50	6.50	6.50
14	7.50-8.00	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00	7.50	6.50	6.50
15	7.50-8.00	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00	7.50-8.00	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00
16	7.50-8.00	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00	7.50-8.00	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00
19	8.00	7.00	7.00	7.50-8.00	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00
20	Supplies insufficient to quote			SEASON FINISHED		
21	8.00	----	6.50-7.00			
22	7.00-8.00	----	6.00-7.00			
23	7.50	----	6.50			
	- - - SEASON FINISHED - - -					

BAKERSFIELD

Date	36s	45s	27s
June			
19	8.00	7.00-7.50	7.00
20	8.00	7.00	6.50-7.00
21	7.50-8.00	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00
22	7.50-8.00	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00
23	7.50-8.00	6.00-6.50	6.00-7.00
26	7.00-7.50	----	5.00-5.50

<u>CHICAGO</u>				<u>NEW YORK</u>			
DATE	ARRIVALS		SALES (36s)	DATE	ARRIVALS		SALES (36s)
	R1	Tr			R1	Tr	
May				May			
30	13	1	-----	30	19	8	14.00-15.00
31	17	2	-----	31	8	10	13.00
June				June			
1	9	-	-----	1	14	7	11.00-13.00
2	11	-	-----	2	5	4	-----
5	34	-	9.00-10.00	5	53	3	11.00
6	11	-	9.50	6	35	2	9.00-11.00
7	19	1	9.00-10.00	7	19	-	9.50-10.50
8	13	1	9.00-10.00	8	22	3	9.00-10.00
9	22	3	-----	9	21	-	-----
12	65	-	9.00-10.00	12	79	-	8.50-10.00
13	29	-	7.50-8.00	13	26	-	7.00-8.00
14	5	-	8.00-8.50	14	30	-	-----
15	20	-	8.00-8.50	15	11	-	8.50-9.00
16	7	-	8.50-9.00	16	32	1	-----
19	20	1	8.50	19	43	-	9.00-10.00
20	9	-	8.00-8.50	20	11	1	8.00-9.00
21	15	-	-----	21	7	-	-----
22	7	-	9.00-10.00	22	4	-	9.00
23	13	1	9.00-10.00	23	8	1	11.00-11.50

<u>LOS ANGELES</u>				<u>SAN FRANCISCO</u>			
DATE	ARRIVALS		SALES (36s)	DATE	ARRIVALS		SALES (36s)
	R1	Tr			R1	Tr	
May				May			
30	-	35	-----	30	-	12	7.50-8.00
31	-	18	-----	31	-	11	7.00-7.50
June				June			
1	-	31	-----	1	-	12	-----
2	-	39	-----	2	-	9	-----
5	-	44	7.00-7.50	5	-	14	7.50
6	-	23	7.00-7.50	6	-	8	-----
7	-	18	6.00-7.00	7	-	10	6.00-6.50
8	-	17	-----	8	-	9	6.00-6.50
9	-	16	-----	9	-	12	6.25-6.50
12	-	10	-----	12	-	12	7.00-7.50
13	-	7	-----	13	-	11	-----
14	-	8	-----	14	-	5	-----
15	-	12	-----	15	-	1	-----
16	-	7	-----	16	-	-	-----
19	-	24	-----	19	-	7	7.50-8.00*
20	-	14	-----	20	-	13	6.00-7.00*
21	-	9	-----	21	-	6	-----
22	-	25	-----	22	-	9	-----
23	-	7	-----	23	-	6	-----

\* reported as fair quality